

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----002070 291006Z /16

P 290934Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8771
INFO USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 TAIPEI 05798

EXDIS - MILITARY HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS : MILI, PEPR, TW
SUBJECT : RELOCATION OF PERIODIC DEPOT MAINTENANCE WORK
- AND TAIWAN BASED WAR RESERVE MATERIEL

REFS: (A) STATE 216384, (B) HQ USAF 221800Z AUG 78
(NOTAL)

1. IN VIEW OF DECISION REPORTED REF A, I AGREE THAT I
MUST SOON RAISE WITH PRESIDENT CHIANG THE TRANSFER TO
KOREA OF PERIODIC DEPOT MAINTENANCE (PDM) WORK CURRENTLY
PERFORMED IN TAINAN. AS NOTED PARA 4 OF REF B, SUCH
RELOCATION ENTAILS MANY INTERRELATED POLITICAL, ECONOMIC
AND MILITARY CONSIDERATIONS, SOME OF WHICH (SEE BELOW) I
SHOULD BE IN A POSITION TO DISCUSS WITH PRESIDENT CHIANG.
(I RECOGNIZE THAT DETAILS OF SOME OF THESE MATTERS WILL BE
ADDRESSED AT THE AUGUST 29, 30 MEETING AT THE PENTAGON.)

2. NORMALIZATION. I SEE NO ALTERNATIVE TO INFORMING
PRESIDENT CHIANG FRANKLY THAT THE TRANSFER OF PDM WORK TO
FACILITIES IN KOREA AS PART OF OUR CONTINUING IMPLEMENT-
ATION OF THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE. I WOULD NOTE WE CON-
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SIDER IT ESSENTIAL FOR US TO PREPARE AN ALTERNATE FACILITY
SINCE IT IS WASHINGTON'S VIEW THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT
WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO PERMIT U.S. MILITARY PLANES TO
ENTER TAIWAN TO USE THE CURRENT FACILITY FOLLOWING
NORMALIZATION. (ANY ENLARGEMENT ON THE RATIONALE I MAY
USE IN PRESENTING THIS VIEW WOULD BE APPRECIATED.)

3. CONTINUATION OF A MAINTENANCE FACILITY IN TAINAN. PARTICULARLY SINCE ROCAF AND ROC COMMERCIAL PLANES ALSO USE THE TAINAN PDM FACILITY, I SHOULD LIKE TO TELL CCK THAT THE USG HOPES THE E-SYSTEMS FACILITY WILL BE ABLE TO CONTINUE TO FUNCTION AS A COMMERCIAL VENTURE TAKING CARE OF NEEDS OF USERS ON TAIWAN AND ELSEWHERE IN THE AREA AND THAT U.S. IS READY TO DO WHATEVER IT APPROPRIATELY CAN TO ENCOURAGE THIS CONTINUATION. CCK IS PROBABLY AWARE THAT THE GENERAL JUDGMENT HERE IS THAT WITHOUT THE CURRENT, LARGE U.S. MILITARY CONTRACTS AND THE SPECIALIZED EQUIPMENT WHICH WILL BE REMOVED THE CURRENT INSTALLATION MAY WELL NO LONGER BE ECONOMIC. I SHOULD THEREFORE LIKE TO TELL PRESIDENT CHIANG WHATEVER I CAN ABOUT E-SYSTEMS INTENTIONS FOLLOWING REDUCTION AND THEN TERMINATION OF THE U.S. MILITARY USE OF THE TAINAN FACILITY. UNLESS AUTHORIZED TO DO SO, I WILL NOT RAISE THE MATTER WITH E-SYSTEMS HERE, BUT I PRESUME THAT DOD IS IN CONTACT WITH E-SYSTEMS TEXAS ABOUT THE NEW CONTRACT.(WHILE WE CAN SAY TO THE GROG THAT WE WOULD ENCOURAGE USE OF THE FACILITIES BY ALL IN THE AREA EXCEPT U.S. MILITARY AIRCRAFT EVEN AFTER NORMALIZATION, WE SHOULD NOT MISLEAD THE GROG).

5. POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS. WE SHOULD BE AWARE THAT DESPITE OUR EMPHASIZING THE MILITARY ASPECT OF THE PDM
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FACILITY, OUR DECISION TO TRANSFER THE MILITARY CONTRACTS WILL ALSO BE SEEN AS A SPECIFIC AND DISTURBING CONTRADICTION TO OUR ASSURANCES OF THE CONTINUATION OF OUR ECONOMIC CONNECTIONS FOLLOWING NORMALIZATION. AS IN THE CASE OF THE CLOSURE OF THE USICA CENTERS, THE ROC AND PUBLIC MAY CONCLUDE WE ARE NOT LIVING UP TO OUR ASSURANCES. I MAY HAVE TO DISCUSS THIS PROBLEM WITH PRESIDENT CHIANG; OBVIOUSLY THE MORE ASSURANCES WE CAN GIVE CONCERNING A CONTINUING FACILITY IN TAINAN THE EASIER WE CAN HANDLE THIS PROBLEM.

6. PUBLICITY. I WISH TO ASSURE PRESIDENT CHIANG THAT THERE WILL BE NO LEAK FROM OUR SIDE ABOUT THE GRADUAL TRANSFER TO FACILITIES IN KOREA UNTIL WE WILL HAVE WORKED OUT WITH THE GROG HOW AND WHEN WE WOULD MAKE THE NEWS PUBLIC. I CANNOT GIVE SUCH ASSURANCES WITHOUT WORD FROM WASHINGTON THAT THIS MATTER WILL BE CLOSELY HELD MEANWHILE. WE WANT TO AVOID THE KIND OF SPECULATIVE REPORTING WHICH HAS ACCOMPANIED, FOR EXAMPLE, USG CONSIDERATION OF FOLLOW-ON AIRCRAFT FOR THE ROCAF. WE MUST THEREFORE AVOID SURFACING EVEN THE NEWS OF THE CREATION OF AN

INSTALLATION IN KOREA, WHICH COULD COME OUT WITH
THE BEGINNING OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE ROCAF.

7. AT THE TIME THAT WE ARE GIVING PRESIDENT CHIANG
THE BAD NEWS ABOUT THE TERMINATION OF THE PDM
COOPERATIVE MILITARY VENTURE IT WOULD BE HELPFUL
FOR ME TO GIVE HIM SOME POSITIVE NEWS CONCERNING
THE FOLLOW-ON AIRCRAFT WHICH THE ROC HAS LONG
SINCE REQUESTED. PARTICULARLY IF I AM ABLE TO TELL
HIM OF A FAVORABLE DECISION TO CO-PRODUCE AN
IMPROVED F-5E, FOR EXAMPLE, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO
SHOW HIM THAT WE RECOGNIZE THE NEED FOR THE GROG
TO MAINTAIN A CREDIBLE DEFENSE DETERRENT FOLLOWING

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NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEES.

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8772
INFO USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
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S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 02 TAIPEI 05798

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR PARA NINE

NORMALIZATION.

8. I AGREE THAT THE PROBLEM OF WAR RESERVE MATERIAL
SHOULD NOT BE RAISED AT THIS TIME; WE WILL BE

SUBMITTING SOME CONSIDERATIONS ON THAT MATTER SHORTLY.

9. I SHALL SOON REQUEST AN APPOINTMENT TO CALL ON
PRESIDENT CHIANG TO INTRODUCE MY NEWLY ARRIVED
DCM BEFORE I DEPART FOR CONSULTATIONS ON APPROXIMATELY
SEPTEMBER 16. I WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S
INFORMING ME WHEN I MIGHT EXPECT INSTRUCTIONS
ON PDM, HOPEFULLY ACCOMPANIED BY NEWS CONCERNING
AIRCRAFT.

10. DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS DOD, CINCPAC AND USTDC.
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